

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4036

AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 17997

MADRID - PASS TO AMB. RIDGWAY, US ICNAF DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN GIFA NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) TOKYO 17685; (B) TOKYO 17922; (C) STATE 296667

1. FOLLOWING SERIOUS LDP SETBACK AND DEFEAT OF MINISTER OISHI IN DECEMBER 5, ELECTIONS, FISHATT DISCUSSED WITH ASAO WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, THIS MIGHT HAVE ON GIFA NEGOTIATIONS DECEMBER 13-17. ACCORDING TO ASAO, INsofar AS GIFA NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCERNED, WE SHOULD PROCEED AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, THE FINAL APPROVAL BY THE GOJ ON THE APPROACH NOW BEING TAKEN IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT BE MADE BEFORE THE DECEMBER 13 MEETING, NOR IS IT EXPECTED UNTIL AFTER THE 1ST OF THE YEAR. ASAO APPEARED CONFIDENT THAT PROCEDURES AS AGREED UPON PREVIOUSLY WITH USDEL WILL ULTIMATELY BE APPROVED BY THE GOJ EVEN THOUGH THE TIMING IS NOW MORE UNCERTAIN.

2. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE DRAFT LONG TERM AND INTERIM GIFAS, ASAO'S REMARKS SUGGEST THAT OMISSION OF ANY REFERENCE TO TRANSPONDERS OR POSITION FIXING EQUIPMENT ABOARD VESSELS, AGENTS, AND FEES FOR OBSERVERS IS A TECHNICAL MATTER AND NOT ONE OF SUBSTANCE. THE OMISSION IS A RESPONSE TO HIS UNDERSTANDING FROM DISCUSSIONS IN NOVEMBER MEETINGS THAT LONG TERM GIFA
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MIGHT BE SHORTENED BY ELIMINATING A FEW OF THE TECH-

NICAL ITEMS. THE INSERTION OF THE ANADROMOUS ARTICLE DERIVES FROM LIMITED DISCUSSIONS IN NOVEMBER THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE REFERENCE TO ARTICLE 55 OF THE SNT IN RELATION TO SALMON MANAGEMENT. THE BILLFISH AND MARINE MAMMAL ISSUES WILL REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. REF. B PROVIDES INFORMATION ON ACCEPTANCE OF PETITION BY FISHATT FROM THE JAPANESE WHALING INDUSTRY. THE INCREASED ATTENTION GIVEN TO MARINE MAMMALS IN THE DRAFT GIFA MAY BE THE RESULT OF INTENSE PRESSURE BY WHALING INDUSTRY TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS AND TO POINT OUT INCONSISTENCY OF USG POSITION UNDER THE FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT, ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND U.S. ACTIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION.

3. GOJ POSITION ON INTERIM AGREEMENT IS FLEXIBLE. A STATEMENT FOR GOJ EXAMINATION PREPARED BY THE USG ALONG THE LINES OF THE "THIRD APPROACH" WOULD BE WELCOME BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE EXPLICIT CONCERNING FISHING BY JAPAN IN 1977. PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE DRAFT INTERIM AGREEMENT APPEARS TO BE IMPORTANT IF THIS TYPE OF AGREEMENT IS FURTHER PURSUED.

4. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSION WITH JFA PERSONNEL, MATSUURA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT INCLUSION OF THE ANADROMOUS ARTICLE MAY BE DIFFICULT TO DEFEND. HE PLEADED, HOWEVER, THAT SOME ARRANGEMENT MUST BE WORKED OUT TO PROTECT JAPAN'S SALMON INTERESTS AFTER 197.

5. BEFORE DEPARTURE OF FISHATT LATE DEC 8, WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE TO GIVE MATSUURA CONCERNING APPLICATION FOR VESSEL PERMITS AND FISHING VESSEL IDENTIFICATION FORMS NOTED IN PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 OF REF A.
HODGSON

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